

Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
Training Committee
June 2, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Terry Devito
Steve Walsh
Robert McGarry
Jack Casner
Dan Warzoha
Paul Benyeda
Robert Kenny, Jr.
Robert Grega
Jeff Morrisette
John Field
Thomas Flaherty
Susan Rainville
Robert Saucier
Adam Piskura
Michael Spera
Rick Kleindienst
Gary Havican
Mary Duley
Gary Stango

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Jeff Morrisette at 1:35 p.m.

The draft May 23, 2005 Meeting Minutes were distributed for review. A MOTION was made by Chief Jack Casner to approve the Meeting Minutes and was SECONDED by Paul Benyeda, MOTION carried.

Chairman Morrisette skipped to item 3 on the agenda discussing the status of the UCONN Homeland Security Education Center (HSEC). This issue was placed on the agenda to ensure the committee had an opportunity to discuss any concerns with the scheduled expiration of the contract between DEMHS and UCONN for coordination of training. Robert McGarry had mentioned that most of UCONN's HSEC staff was informed that the contract was not being renewed and that they should seek other employment. He indicated that if the committee determined there may be a need for their services, that discussion needs to take place now to allow for a renewal or extension of the contract. He stated concerns regarding transitioning the training mission to DEMHS, if it was not fully staffed. Chief Jack Casner spoke on behalf of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association about the need for standardization and concerns with quality and consistency. Chief Warzoha echoed Chief Casner's comments and speaking on behalf of the CT Career Fire Chiefs spoke of the need to utilize the existing infrastructures such as the police and fire academies. He stated these were long standing concerns. Bob McGarry spoke about what UCONN brings to the table, that being the ability to quickly hire qualified staff to manage the training program. He indicated UCONN imposed an 8% Administrative load along with salary and benefits for its staff assigned to the training function. Paul Benyeda spoke about the need for a self-sustaining training structure as federal funding decreases. Michael Spera inquired about DEMHS's current staffing for training. Currently it is staffed by Paul Benyeda and one Training Specialist. Two additional Training Specialists and a Clerical position need to be filled. Chief Thomas Flaherty from POST stated that he was not speaking for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association but he was echoing many of the previous comments regarding the need to support the current training institutions such as the police and fire academy. Chairman Morrisette indicated that he would bring the Committee's comments and concerns regarding staffing back to the Coordinating Council at their meeting next week.

Returning to item 2 on the agenda Chair Morrisette reported that he did not have answers to several questions posed at the previous meeting or forwarded to him by Terry Devito. Paul Benyeda indicated he was still doing research and had hoped to have answers soon. A couple of the inquires were whether

funding may be used to cover marketing of training programs and for evaluation of courses for college credit.

Robert Kenny and Mary Duley provided an overview of a recent NIMS Alert document regarding the IS 700 course and Who Needs to Take? They felt that the document helps to confirm previous discussion held by this and the NIMS Implementation Committee.

Each Committee representative then reviewed their research to date regarding training needs. Areas discussed were Health Care Preparedness, Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS, Emergency Telecommunicators and Emergency Management training. Chief Flaherty from POST distributed their draft training plan for the law enforcement community. Committee members agreed that their formatting style was well done and that all disciplines should look to emulate it.

Chairman Morrisette reminded participants to keep in mind that while we are all looking at our individual discipline training needs we need to partner and collaborate whenever possible.

A follow-up meeting was planned for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 to discuss development of a preliminary report for the upcoming DEMHS Coordinating Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.